

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

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NORTH COAST BOARD CONTINUES TO STEER MIDDLE COURSE IN ELK RIVER AND FRESHWATER CREEK WATERSHEDS

Santa Rosa – The North Coast Regional Water Board today discussed the request by Pacific Lumber Company for Board approval of 11 additional Timber Harvest Plans in the Elk River and Freshwater Creek watersheds. Since September 2004, the Water Board staff has approved 40 Timber Harvest Plans submitted by the company. The company asserts that approval of these latest plans is necessary for the company to avoid bankruptcy.

Residents downstream from the proposed logging sites expressed their concerns regarding continued sedimentation and resulting floods of their properties as a consequence of additional harvesting.

The Board staff plans to review the Timber Harvest Plans next week against newly developed science on their cumulative effects on the watersheds and make a determination in the near future.

“The Water Board is committed to following State and Federal Water quality laws while giving due consideration to economic impacts,” Beverly Wasson, Chair of the Regional Board said.

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